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New Corticariinae (Coleoptera, Lathridiidae) from Japan and the Far East

By

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Melanophthalma (Cortilena) sakagutii sp. n.

Length 1.45–1.75 mm; antennal length 0.48–0.53 mm; pronotal breadth 0.46–0.51 mm; elytral breadth 0.64–0.80 mm; aedeagal length 0.41 mm.

Coloration entirely reddish-brown, the antennae and legs slightly lighter. Antennae with a two-segmented, gradual club; segments nine and ten slightly broader than long. Upper surface rather dull, due to the obvious isodiametric microsculpture. Pronotum 1.39–1.45 times as broad as long, broadest somewhat in front of the middle, the sides smoothly contoured, slightly narrowed behind and a little more strongly in front; hind angles with a small tooth; surface closely covered with shallow punctures, the punctures on the disc about one to one and a half diameters apart from their nearest neighbours; surface even, without any trace of depressions. Elytra rather short, 2.90–3.10 times as long as the pronotum, 1.36–1.48 times as long as together broad; broadest in front of the middle, the sides feebly curved; longer elytral hairs ca. 0.064–0.072 mm, slightly outstanding; elytral apex rather rounded. Male: aedeagus Fig. 1, with a pre-apical ventral constriction.

Holotype ♂. JAPAN—Kami-Ifuku, Okayama-shi, 27. iv. 1945, leg. K. SAKAGUTI (in Natn. Sci. Mus., Tokyo).

Paratypes. JAPAN—same data, 4 ex.; same but 1. v. 1945 1 ex., 4. v. 1945 2 exs.; Shimauchi, Matsumoto, 16. vi. 1952, leg. S. UÉNO, 1 ex.

Notes. This species, due to the colour and two-segmented antennal club, is very closely allied to the rare central Asian *pallens* (MANNERHEIM) (JOHNSON, 1972 a). The Japanese species is shorter and broader, especially the elytra which have slightly more outstanding pubescence, and the aedeagus is clearly different. Its pronotum also tends to have coarser but not so close punctures, and the microsculpture is very slightly weaker.

Melanophthalma (s. str.) *japonica* sp. n.

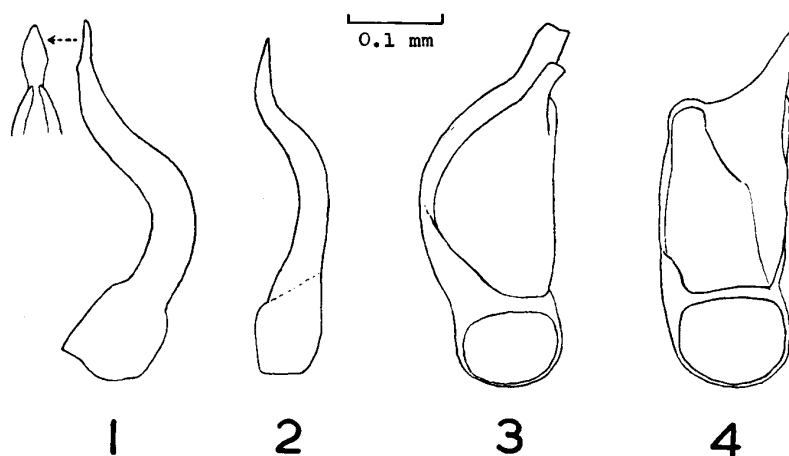
Length 1.57–1.84 mm; pronotal breadth 0.42–0.50 mm; elytral breadth 0.64–

0.78 mm; antennal length 0.45–0.53 mm. Unicolorous reddish-brown species, the antennae and legs lighter. Antennal club three-segmented, segment nine about as long as broad (♂) or slightly broader than long (♀), ten very slightly (♂) or obviously (♀) broader than long. Head with particularly large and coarsely-faceted eyes, the frons a little over 1.5 times the latitudinal diameter of an eye in width; temples absent. Pronotum slightly transverse, broadest across the middle, with a wide transverse impression in the basal half; sides of the pronotum irregularly and coarsely serrate, in the middle with a well-marked angular projection, the sides narrowed both to the fore and rear, although more so to the former; hind angles toothed; base narrower than the breadth across the middle, but broader than across the front margin. Elytra broadest about the middle, where the sides are feebly curved, the surface weakly microsculptured and with rather coarsely and closely punctured striae; interstices with rather long (ca. 0.08 mm), curved and somewhat outstanding hairs which are longer than the more depressed strial ones; elytra separately rounded at the apex. Abdomen more-or-less impunctate. Male: anterior tibia with a minute tooth on the underside a little in front of the middle; fifth visible sternite entire, without any unusual features; ventral aspect of the aedeagus of the *distinguenda* group form, lateral view as in Fig. 2.

Holotype ♂. JAPAN—Wakamatsu, 28. iii. 1949, leg. K. NAGAYAMA (in Natn. Sci. Mus., Tokyo).

Paratypes. JAPAN—same data, 1 ♀; Nagoya, Owari, 30. viii. 1947, leg. T. NAKANE, 1 ♀; Senri-yama, Osaka Pref., 10. v. 1951, leg. K. SAWADA, 1 ♀; Bomura, nr. Kyoto; 5. vi. 1957, leg. T. NAKANE, 1 ♂.

Notes. The large, coarsely-faceted eyes, pronotal shape, male front tibia and aedeagus will immediately distinguish this species from all other known Palearctic ones. Although so abundantly distinct, *japonica* in fact is a member of a group of



Figs. 1–4. Aedeagi of Corticariinae. — 1, *Melanophthalma* (*Cortilena*) *sakagutii* sp. n., lateral, with ventral view of apex; 2, *M.* (s. str.) *japonica* sp. n., lateral; 3, *Corticarina khnzoriani* sp. n., ventral; 4, *C. nakanei* sp. n., ventral.

difficult species occurring in Africa and southern Asia. Its closest relative is *prominens* JOHNSON (JOHNSON, 1972 b) from India and Nepal, with which it agrees in virtually all respects. From *prominens*, *japonica* may be distinguished as follows: male fifth visible tergite simple; male anterior tibial tooth smaller; aedeagus different.

Corticarina nakanei sp. n.

Length 1.76–1.90 mm; pronotal breadth 0.56–0.59 mm; elytral breadth 0.80–0.88 mm; antennal length 0.59–0.64 mm. Reddish species, antennae and legs reddish-yellow, the antennal club slightly infuscated. Antennal segments long, segment nine conical and longer than broad, ten about as long as broad, the club gradual. Pronotum 1.33–1.46 times as broad as long, broadest a little in front of the middle, the sides rather strongly curved; post-median circular depression shallow but distinct, lateral impressions absent; surface shining, ground sculpture weak, the punctures somewhat close but the interstices tending to being ridge-like; hind angles somewhat strongly toothed. Elytra long oval, 2.89–3.12 times as long as the pronotum and 1.42–1.56 times as long as together broad, the sides moderately curved; elytral pubescence not completely flat, the longer hairs ca. 0.064 mm and clearly overlapping. Male: anterior tibial tooth situated very slightly in front of the middle; aedeagus highly characteristic, Fig. 4.

Holotype ♂. JAPAN—Akiho, Natori, 22. vi. 1951, leg. K. NAGAYAMA (in Natn. Sci. Mus., Tokyo).

Paratypes. JAPAN—Nikko, leg. G. LEWIS, 1 ♀; Yokohama, leg. G. LEWIS, 1 ♀; Hira-oka, Osaka Pref., 20. iii. 1952, leg. K. SAWADA, 1 ♀; Mitake, Tokyo, 26. iv. 1953, leg. J. AOKI, 1 ♀.

Notes. On account of the very large size, this species can only be confused with the following one, *khnzoriani* sp. n. It differs from that species in being more reddish, convex and shining, the pronotum is broadest more in front of the middle, is more transverse and has weaker ground sculpture, and the elytra are longer in proportion to the pronotum. The aedeagi of the two species are quite different, that of *nakanei* being strikingly different from any hitherto known.

Corticarina khnzoriani sp. n.

Length 1.76–1.92 mm; pronotal breadth 0.54–0.59 mm; elytral breadth 0.82–0.83 mm; antennal length 0.58–0.66 mm. Reddish-yellow species, legs and antennae included; antennal club feebly infuscate. Antennal segments long (more so in ♂), segment nine conical and longer than broad, the club gradual; segment ten slightly longer than broad (♂) or slightly broader than long (♀). Pronotum 1.26–1.32 times as broad as long, broadest more-or-less at the middle, the sides rather strongly curved; post-median circular depression shallow but distinct, lateral impressions absent; surface not very shining, ground sculpture distinct, the punctures shallow and close together; hind angles somewhat strongly toothed. Elytra long oval, 2.68–2.80 times

as long as the pronotum and 1.44–1.53 times as long as together broad, the sides moderately curved; elytral pubescence not completely flat, the longer hairs ca. 0.056–0.064 mm and clearly overlapping. Male: anterior tibial tooth situated close to the middle; aedeagus characteristic, Fig. 3.

Holotype ♂. U.S.S.R.—East Siberia: Vladivostok, 4. ix. 1971, leg. S. M. KHNZORIAN (in Zool. Inst., Erevan).

Paratypes. U.S.S.R.—same locality, 30. ix. 1971, leg. Y. WUORENTAUS, 2 ♀.

Notes. From the colour of the dorsum and the structure of the aedeagus, this species seems to be most closely related to *irkutensis* A. STRAND. It differs from the latter in its larger size, more closely punctured and ample pronotum whose sides are more strongly rounded, by its longer antennae in which all the segments are very slightly longer (especially nine), as well as by the less depressed pubescence of the elytral interstices. The aedeagus of *khnzoriani* is larger and not as twisted as in *irkutensis*, with the dorsal projection blunt and broader. Both *khnzoriani* and *nakanei* are the largest Palaearctic species of the genus.

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Abstract

Melanophthalma (Cortilena) sakagutii sp. n., *M. (s. str.) japonica* sp. n. and *Corticarina nakanei* sp. n. are described from Japan, *C. khnzoriani* sp. n. from Vladivostok. The aedeagus of each species is figured.

References

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